

Making compulsory the inspection of all dead by an observer trained in plague work, is the first step in the warfare, and this we will have to **HOW TO DO IT.** do voluntarily or we will be compelled to do it by the declaration of quarantine against California. You may think that is an extravagant suggestion, but it is closer to us now than most of us know and is as sure to come as to-morrow's sun unless we get very busy, and that soon, and find out exactly where the disease is, and then fight it. The health officers of all the surrounding counties should come to San Francisco and study plague under the supervision of the Marine Hospital men, who will gladly aid them, and thus know something about it and be able to know it when they see it. Until they are trained, properly qualified medical officers should be employed, and enough of them, to make the investigation of all dead persons. All physicians should be aroused to the presence of the disease and warned to be on the watch for it, and to co-operate in the matter of official inspection. Furthermore, the public should be informed of the exact situation and their co-operation secured; let the voting citizen know that plague is here in our state and that the quicker he loosens the purse-strings and starts to fight, the cheaper will be the fight in the long run; it has been said, if memory serves, by Kitasoto, that every case of plague costs the community \$7,500.00, and that is certainly not an overestimate, if we consider what it will mean in the course of time. If the countries and towns cannot stand the expense of the necessary work, the state should not hesitate to step in and do it. Dollars spent now will mean thousands saved in the long run. Bring all the pressure you can upon your newspapers and force them into aiding in the work of publicity. Tell the people what we know about plague—that it is a disease of rats (and probably squirrels), conveyed to man by means of fleas, in the great majority of cases, though easily transmitted directly. When the rats are destroyed plague is destroyed, and rats cannot live or thrive if their food supply is taken away. If the people will not help, by cleaning up each his own premises, keeping refuse and food where rats can not get it, killing and catching rats, and generally aiding in the work, we can do mighty little. The public must be enlightened and made to co-operate.

The newspapers, instead of helping, as they should, show a disposition to belittle the whole thing and to make the people believe that either **THE PRESS.** there is no plague here, or that it amounts to next to nothing. When the disease appeared in San Francisco seven years ago, the press, with one accord, abused everybody connected with fighting the infection; the governor was equally obnoxious and aided the press in its attacks upon the medical profession and the officers of the Marine Hospital Service. This time they have not been quite so bad, but they have done little or nothing to help, and the Chronicle, from its "tower of golden silence," has ridiculed the whole thing. The

papers are like the ostrich who buries its head in the sand and thinks it is hidden; they forget that, if they will not print the truth, other papers in other cities will print things that are far from the truth. Already, in Chicago, the papers have printed wonderful and fearful stories about plague, thousands of deaths, and people fleeing from rats which pursue them in the streets. In Mexico a paper printed the statement that there were nine hundred cases of plague in San Francisco; in other places equally farcical stories have been printed. This policy of silence or of negation is dangerous in the extreme and we should do everything in our power to show the papers the foolishness of their attitude; they think it will excite the people and "hurt business" if they print the facts. But if the people are not informed of the facts and the danger—for there is real danger—they will do nothing for they will not know what to do. Teach the people that *plague is here in our state*; that it is not a question of preventing it from getting a foothold, for a disease that has been with us for seven years can be said to have obtained a pretty fair foothold; that it follows the lines of rodent travel and migration and that destruction of rodents means a stoppage of plague, and nothing else will mean that. Let them get excited if they must, but let them get busy and help. There is no *immediate* danger of a serious lighting up of the epidemic, but there is a remote danger of that unfortunate occurrence if we do not find all the foci, find where it is, and clean it out. And the longer it slumbers along, the greater is the ultimate danger of a serious conflagration. Ignorance is the greatest of dangers; enlightenment means ultimate health and cleanliness.

The next meeting of our State Society will be held at Coronado, April 21st, 22d and 23d, 1908. The value and importance of our organization are becoming more and more **STATE SOCIETY.** clearly defined with each passing year, and it is certainly to be hoped that the attendance this year will be larger than ever before. In many sections of the state our men are awake to the duty they owe the community in the matter of the protection of the public, and they are taking active part in the "science or art of government." It is through the State Society that these energies are centralized and consequently the work and the importance of the Society are steadily growing; and also its value to the people of the state. Every reputable physician of every county in the state should be a member of his county society (and consequently of the State Society) and as many as can possibly leave home for a few days should attend the meetings of the State organization. The getting together, becoming acquainted with each other, learning each other's good qualities and rubbing off some of the corners are matters quite as important as the discussion of scientific subjects. As a natural consequence of the nature of our work, the tendency is for medical men to become narrow and self-centered and it is general meetings such as